

Abstract of the Disclosure

A scanning optical system includes a deflector that deflects a light beam toward an object surface such that the light beam is scanned over the object surface in a main scanning direction. A mirror system reflects back the light beam so that the light beam travels toward the object surface after being deflected twice by the deflector. The mirror system reflects back the light beam such that a projection of the light beam on an auxiliary scanning section, which is a plane perpendicular to the main scanning direction, is incident on the reflection surface for a first time at an incident angle different from an incident angle at which the projection of the light beam is incident on the reflection surface for a second time. A blocking member is provided to prevent the unwanted light flux from striking the object surface while allowing the light beam scanning the object surface.